

*Meets with Leaders of the International Atomic Energy Agency Regarding Nuclear Safety*

Washington, D.C. -- Congressman Jeff Fortenberry is engaging with nuclear experts and policymakers this week to examine ways to strengthen nuclear security in the United States and around the world. The bipartisan conference of U.S. lawmakers and international leaders in the nuclear field includes dialogue with leadership of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria.

"The spread of nuclear weapons poses grave and serious threats to U.S. national security and global stability," Fortenberry said. "We must continually examine the broad range of nuclear security concerns, from preventing nuclear weapons proliferation to ensuring the safe use of nuclear power. I am pleased to participate in these discussions, as they help shape the policies that strengthen our national security."

Fortenberry, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and a co-founder of the Congressional Nuclear Security Caucus, is among a select group of U.S. lawmakers attending this week's conference on nuclear challenges. Discussions center on topics of managing nuclear power, stopping the spread of nuclear weapons, preventing nuclear terrorism, and exploring the complexities of the U.S.-Russian nuclear relationship. The IAEA is an international organization that works with its Member States and multiple partners to promote safe, secure and peaceful nuclear technologies.

Last week, the House Foreign Affairs Committee advanced Fortenberry's bill, the Furthering International Nuclear Safety Act of 2011 (H.R. 1326). The bipartisan legislation would enhance global cooperation on nuclear safety in light of the continuing nuclear reactor crisis in Japan that followed last month's tragic earthquake and tsunami.

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